

# "It was brutal" — soccer coach

## Stouffville Panthers, Royals advance to York championship

**BY KELLY CONNELLY**  
The Stouffville Royals and Panthers advanced to the York Region Cup championship after beating their respective foes in overtime penalty-kicks last Sunday in Newmarket.

The Bantam Royals went three for three in penalty shots to eliminate arch-rival Richmond Hill 3-2 and the Pee wee Panthers knocked off Woodbridge on a fifth and final penalty kick by Ernie Sluga for a 3-2 decision.

Panther coach Alfons Rubbens called his semifinal victory the

game of the year. The testy Woodbridge club hasn't beaten his team in seven years, so it didn't surprise him when the opposition engaged in what he called "intimidation tactics" to try and break the spell.

"It was brutal. There were arguments before the game even started about the choice of referee and the ball. The tension was enormous," recalled the coach.

"Woodbridge is big and forceful and we took a lot of punches, but we didn't retaliate."

Actually, the Panthers did start

to hit back after their speedy left striker Giles Francis dislocated his thumb in a rough collision with a Woodbridge player.

With Stouffville trailing 2-1, the second half injury infuriated his players and turned the game around, said Rubbens, who likened the Newmarket Fairgrounds field to a "cow pasture" after Saturday's heavy rainfall.

Jimmy Senyk scored the tying goal to force the overtime. Richie Holden, recently out of an ankle cast, scored the Panthers' first goal.

day at Bayview Park.

**DIVING EFFORT**  
Royal coach Martin Johannessen still can't believe the goal Colin Hales scored — his second of two — that tied the game 2-2 with Richmond Hill in the latter half and inevitably gave Stouffville its second wind.

"It was sheer guts. He must have ran about 20 or 30 yards and at the very last second he dove at it — inside the 18-yard box — with his head," described the coach.

The dramatic play with both Hales and the Richmond Hill goalie charging for the fly ball resulted in a nasty collision — and the goal.

"Most guys will back off when they see a goalie charging for the ball, but Colin took a knock on the head to put it in."

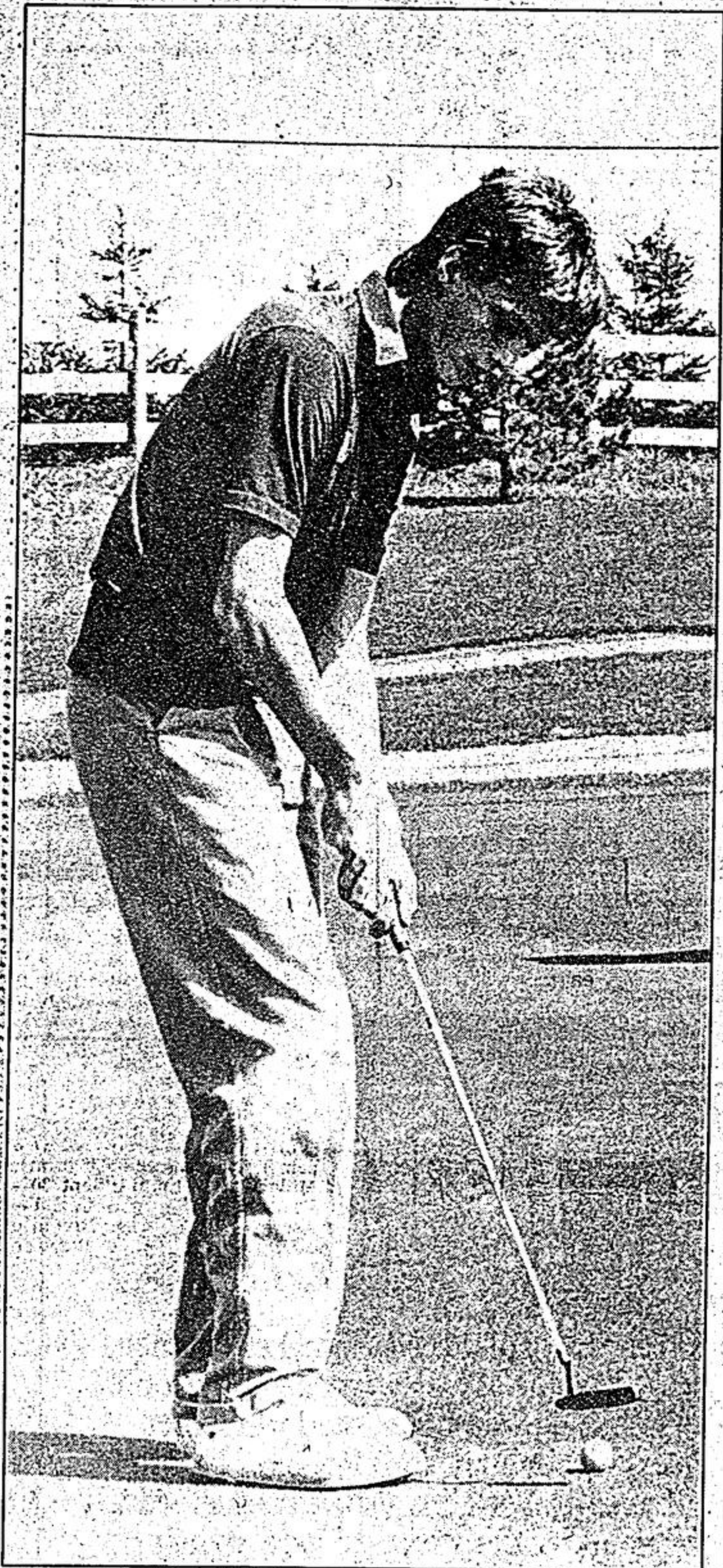
Johannessen expects a tough encounter with Bradford in next Saturday's championship. "They

beat us 2-1 in regular play, so my guys are very anxious to have a replay.

The skipper called Sunday's match a team effort. The Cup game goes Saturday, 11:00 a.m. at Newmarket's Rec Centre.



GARY BODIMEADE  
roughed up



## York-Durham slo-pitch playoffs this weekend

The York-Durham Men's Slow Pitch playoff tournament goes this weekend at Stouffville Park.

Rain or shine, all three diamonds will be used Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday at 9 a.m. round one games include: Villagers vs Claremont, Trappers vs Saints, Blazers vs Merchants.

## Fun League lady champs

Magna Concord edged Lee Sand & Gravel 11-10 for the playoff championship Sept. 16.

Both teams played an excellent game. Great pitching by Jill Simpson of Magna and Ellen Hollands of Lee Sand. Ruth Williams of Lee Sand blasted a homerun and Simpson tallied for Magna. Carol Watson made the winning catch.

The A & S Raiders, undefeated all season, get a bye into the second round which starts at 11:15 a.m. The Sunday finals begin at noon.

### FINAL STANDINGS

| Team     | W  | T | L  | P  |
|----------|----|---|----|----|
| Raiders  | 18 | 3 | 0  | 39 |
| Village  | 16 | 1 | 6  | 33 |
| Trappers | 15 | 2 | 6  | 32 |
| Merchant | 11 | 1 | 9  | 23 |
| Blazers  | 9  | 0 | 14 | 18 |
| Saints   | 6  | 0 | 17 | 12 |
| Clarem.  | 5  | 1 | 18 | 11 |

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**Missed putt**  
Stouffville, Secondary junior golfer Darren Stevens lines up a putt during York Region school tourney at Maples of Ballantrac Golf Club last week. Did he burn his score card? After this putt, he might have.

—Kelly Connelly

**Draw winner**  
The winner of the lucky draw at Vic Wilson's Equestrian Centre grand opening on Sunday was Donna Hoover of R.R. 4, Stouffville. She picks up a wool cooler for a horse. The prize was donated by Frontier Trading Post.

More than 200 people attended the Wilson's open house. Geri Lyn O'Connor, mayor of Uxbridge, cut the ribbon. Other local politicians were on hand to wish Wilson and his new business good luck.

The equestrian centre, located on the Stouffville-Uxbridge town line (south of Bloomington), will host equestrian events starting next summer.

**Horse trainer smiling**  
Quarter horse trainer Rick Kennedy, of Stouffville, likely had a grin from ear to ear after some of his prodigies did well at last Saturday night's Quarter Horse Racing at Markham Fair.

Moon Dial Radar won the first race for two-year-olds (350 yards). Rocket On Command won the second race and Caseofone won the fourth race (Markham Classic for two-year-olds).

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